



Amount of Required Physical Education: Montana mandates physical education in grades K-6, but it does not require daily recess. The state also mandates 225+ minutes per week of physical education in grades 7-8 and at the high school level.

High School Graduation Requirements: The state requires students to earn 1.0 health-enhancement credit, with 0.5 credits earned each year, for graduation.

Substitutions: The state does not permit school districts or schools to allow students to substitute other activities for their required physical education credit.

Exemptions/Waivers: Exemptions are not allowed.

State Standards: The state has developed its own standards for physical education, with which all school districts must comply. The Accreditation Standards– Student Content and Performance Standards were last revised in 2001. [See State Standards for Physical Education chart for details.]

State Curriculum: The state does not require the use of specific curricula for elementary, middle school/junior high or high school physical education. Local school districts have the option of using a commercial curriculum of their choice.

Class Size: The state mandates a teacher-to-student ratio comparable to other curricular areas

Online Physical Education Courses: The state does not allow required physical education credits to be earned through online physical education courses.

Student Assessment Requirements: The state does not require student assessment in physical education. However, districts have the flexibility to determine their own requirements, which may include student assessment.

Fitness Testing: The state does not require the use of a particular fitness test protocol.

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State Comprehensive Assessment Test: The state does not have a comprehensive assessment test for graduation.

Education Report Card: The state has an education report card for each school, but physical education is not included as one of the subject areas.

Body Mass Index (BMI): The state does not require schools to collect students' BMI or height and weight.

Certification/Licensure of Physical Education Teachers: The state requires certification or licensure of physical education teachers at the elementary, middle school/junior high and high school levels. Elementary classroom teachers (generalists) may teach required elementary school physical education classes.

Professional Development of Physical Education Teachers: Professional development continuing education hours or credits are required to maintain/renew one's physical education teacher certification or licensure. No state funding is provided for this professional development.

Temporary Certification: Temporary or emergency certification may be granted to teach at the elementary or middle school/junior high school level to anyone holding a bachelor's degree in teaching or education. This certification is valid for two years.

National Board Certification (NBC): The state actively encourages physical education teachers to become certified through the NBC process by providing or facilitating mentoring for teachers going through the process, providing partial funding if the teacher receives board certification, providing a one-time monetary bonus if the teacher receives board certification and providing one or more forms of non-monetary recognition for National Board-certified teachers.

District Physical Education Coordinator: The state does not require each school district to have a licensed physical educator serving as a PE coordinator.

Contact Person:

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